

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 OPIC-03

SAM-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 EURE-00 /066 W

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O P 241356Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1838

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

AMCONSUL OPORTO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, ELAB, PO

SUBJ: SOME HOPE IN SALES SUBSIDIARIES LABOR DISPUTE

REF: LISBON 1003

1. CHEMSEARCH ESPANOLA OFFICIAL ALF JOHNSEN REPORTS MORE HOPEFUL SITUATION IN LABOR DISPUTE INVOLVING LOCAL PROQUICHEME AND CERTIFIED SALES SUBSIDIARIES (REFTEL). HE SEES POSSIBILITY OF NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT, AS MATTER HAS MOVED TO HIGHER LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT.

2. FEBRUARY 22 MEETING AT LABOR MINISTRY CONFIRMED THAT BAN ON JOHNSEN AND ASSOCIATE LEAVING COUNTRY STILL IN EFFECT. (COMMENT: BAN ORDER APPARENTLY SENT DIRECTLY FROM LABOR MINISTRY TO OFFICIALS AT AIRPORT ONLY, BYPASSING NORMAL CHANNELS.) ANOTHER AGREEMENT WS REACHED WITH DISSIDENT WORKERS CALLING FOR MANAGERS TO SIGN LETTER ASSUMING FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR INDEMNITIES TO DISCHARGED WORKERS. HOWEVER, WORKERS SUBSEQUENTLY RENEGED ON THIS AGREEMENT, LEAVING SITUATION AT SAME IMPASSE AS PREVIOUS DAY.

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3. AFTER RETURNING TO HOTEL, JOHNSEN TOLD BY DISSIDENT WORKERS THAT HE WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE HOTEL. DISSIDENTS MAINTAINED SURVEILLANCE IN LOBBY AND AT HOTEL EXISTS. EMBOFF VISITED JOHNSEN AT HOTEL FEB. 22. FOLLOWING DAY EMBASSY OFFICERS AGAIN WENT TO HOTEL, WERE ASSURED MANAGER WOULD NOT BE IMPEDED FROM LEAVING. JOHNSEN AND ASSOCIATE WERE ESCORTED FROM HOTEL TO AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE FOR TALK WITH HIM. GROUP WAS FOLLOWED BY CARS WITH DISSIDENT WORKERS.

4. SPANISH LAWYERS OF FIRM AND HEAD OF ONE OF TWO PANISH SOCIALIST PARTIES ARRIVED TO ASSIST. WE UNDERSTAND THAT GROUP WAS ABLE TO HOLD TALK WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SOARES OVER WEEKEND. AS OF MORNING FEB. 24 MP'S HAVE BEEN STATIONED AT HOTEL, FOR MANAGERS' PROTECTION, AND NEGOTIATIONS UNDERWAY AT LABOR MINISTRY. JOHNSEN THINKS UNION MAY BE BACKING DOWN AND AGREEMENT POSSIBLE. HE IS NOT ASKING EMBASSY FOR ASSISTANCE AT MOMENT, AND HAS ASKED BOTH US AND WASHINGTON POST CORRESPONDENT MIGUEL ACOCA (WITH WHOM HE WAS IN PREVIOUS CONTACT) NOT TO PUBLICIZE SITUATION AS HE THINKS IF MIGHT LESSEN CHANCES FOR SETTLEMENT.

5. IF DEPARTMENT GETS PRESS QUERIES, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS SPOKESMAN GIVE FACTS AS REPORTED AND ADD THAT EMBASSY IS IN CONTACT AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF GOP RE THE PROBLEM.  
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